

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00918 031132Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /092 W
-----009536 031331Z /43

R 031100Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5619
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, LT, CH
SUBJECT: GOUKOUNI PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: TRIPOLI 0837, TRIPOLI 0914

1. FROLINAT LEADER GOUKOUNI HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 2 ON
EVE OF RESUMPTION OF CHAD RECONCILIATION TALKS. EMBASSY HAS
NOT YET SEEN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT, BUT FROM RADIO REPORTS,
GOUKOUNI APPEARED TO BE VERY UNCONCILIATORY. HE INDICATED
THAT "CIRCUMSTANCES" CAUSED THE ARMED CLASHES WHICH FOLLOWED
THE MARCH SEBHA/BENGHAZI ACCORDS AND STRESSED ONCE AGAIN THE
NECESSITY OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN (READ FRENCH ONLY)
TROOPS FROM CHAD. HE SAID THAT FROLINAT WAS PREPARED FOR
EITHER A PEACEFUL OR A MILITARY SOLUTION: THE CHOICE WAS UP
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TO THE MALLOUM GOVERNMENT.

2. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, RADIO TRIPOLI ANNOUNCED
JULY 3 THAT DURING THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, CHAD GOV-
ERNMENT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDEL
KADER KAMOUQUE WHILE THE HEAD OF THE FROLINAT DELEGA-
TION AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WILL BE IBRAHIM YUSUF, IVICE

PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION YET ON COMPOSITION OF NIGER OR SUDAN DELEGATIONS, ALTHOUGH SUDANESE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ABU AL-QASIM IBRAHIM WILL HEAD HIS DELEGATION IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE TALKS.

3. COMMENT. GOUKOUNI READ HIS LINES ACCORDING TO A SCRIPT WRITTEN BY THE LIBYANS. LATTER HOPE TO OBTAIN IN TRIPOLI WHAT RECENTLY ELUDED THEM IN PARIS. IF, HOWEVER, THEIR BLUSTER, THREATS AND MILITARY POSTURINGS ON THE SOUTHERN BORDERS FAIL TO MOVE KAMOUGUE (AND THE SUDANESE FOR THAT MATTER), IT IS STILL LIKELY THAT THE LIBYANS WILL OPT FOR A NEW "FINAL" AGREEMENT ANYWAY RATHER THAN OPEN MILITARY INTERVENTION WHICH IS VERY UNLIKELY IN ANY CASE. FOR THE LIBYANS, A NEW ACCORD -- WHICH DOES NOT NEED ANY SUBSTANTIVE EFFECT TO HAVE GREAT PROPAGANDA VALUE -- IS ESSENTIAL TO FURTHER CERTIFY QADHAFI'S "PEACEMAKER" CREDENTIALS. AS THE FRENCH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FAIL TO WITHDRAW TO THE EXTENT DEMANDED BY THE LIBYANS, THERE WILL BE ADEQUATE GROUNDS FOR CHARGING THE CHAD GOVERNMENT WITH FAILING TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW ACCORD, AND GOUKOUNI WILL FEEL JUSTIFIED IN PURSUING THE MILITARY SOLUTION THREATENED IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WITH, OF COURSE, STRONG (AND UNADMITTED) LIBYAN SUPPORT.
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CARLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TRIPOL00918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780273-1328
Format: TEL
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780798/aaaadesi.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4c07c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TRIPOLI 837, 78 TRIPOLI 914
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2123184
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOUKOUNI PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, MOPS, PDEV, LY, CD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4c07c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014